



ROUTINE

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DIST 19 AUGUST 1976

1.5(c)

1. ~~REDACTED~~ COMMENT: SANTIAGO EMBASSY TELEGRAM 8028 OF 17 AUGUST REPORTED THAT IN A STRONGLY-WORDED COMMUNIQUE, THE BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ACCUSED PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, AND SPECIFICALLY MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DINA), OF DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN A VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION AT PUDAHUEL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THE RETURN TO CHILE OF THREE CHILEAN BISHOPS EXPELLED FROM ECUADOR FOR ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY.)

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1.5 (c)

2. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] DINA IS
DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING THE VIOLENCE WHICH TOOK
PLACE UPON THE BISHOP'S ARRIVAL AT PUDAHUAL. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] A
RANKING OFFICER OF THE CARABINERO CONTINGENT AT THE AIRPORT,
CALLED CARABINERO HEADQUARTERS ON THE MORNING OF 15 AUGUST
TO REPORT THAT A LARGE GROUP OF PRO AND ANTI-CHURCH
DEMONSTRATORS HAD GATHERED AT THE AIRPORT AND THAT HE EXPECTED
TROUBLE AND REQUESTED REINFORCEMENTS. [REDACTED] REPORTED
THAT A NUMBER OF DINA AGENTS IN PLAIN CLOTHES WERE AMONG THE
CROWD AND HE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED CARABINERO COLONEL
HILTON C O N T R E R A S MEDINA AS ONE OF THEM. [REDACTED]

1.5 (c)

3. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] CARABINERO HEADQUARTERS
CALLED GENERAL EDUARDO G O R D O N CANAS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF CARABINEROS, TO INFORM HIM OF THE IMPENDING
DEMONSTRATION AND THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES REQUESTED [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. GORDON REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO AUGMENT

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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(classification)

1.5 (c)

THE UNIFORMED CONTINGENT AT THE AIRPORT BECAUSE DINA HAD
TAKEN CHARGE OF THE AFFAIR.

4. THE CONSENSUS AMONG CARABINERO FIELD GRADE OFFICERS
REGARDING THE AIRPORT INCIDENT IS THAT IT WAS ORCHESTRATED BY
DINA AND IS A DISGRACE TO THE ARMED FORCES. IN ADDITION, IT
WAS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THE EXPULSION OF THE BISHOPS FROM
ECUADOR PLACED THEM IN A DEFENSIVE POSITION ON THEIR RETURN
TO CHILE. HOWEVER, THE VIOLENCE OVERSHADOWED THE EXPULSION
INCIDENT AND GAVE THE BISHOPS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. THE
CARABINERO OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT DINA'S OVER REACTION WILL
PRODUCE MORE ANTI-CHILE CRITICISM IN INTERNATIONAL FORA,
PARTICULARLY WHEN COUPLED WITH THE RECENT SUMMARY EXPULSION
FROM CHILE OF PROMINENT LEFT-LEANING POLITICIAN SJAIME
CASTILLO VELASCO AND EUGENIO VELASCO LETELIER.

5. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1.5 (c)

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